

25th ANNIVERSARY

1940 - 1965

Woman's Society of Christian Service
Wesleyan Service Guild

Louisiana Conference The Methodist Church



HISTORICAL PAMPHLET

for

Annual Meeting March 10 - 12, 1965

Broadmoor Methodist Church

Shreveport, Louisiana

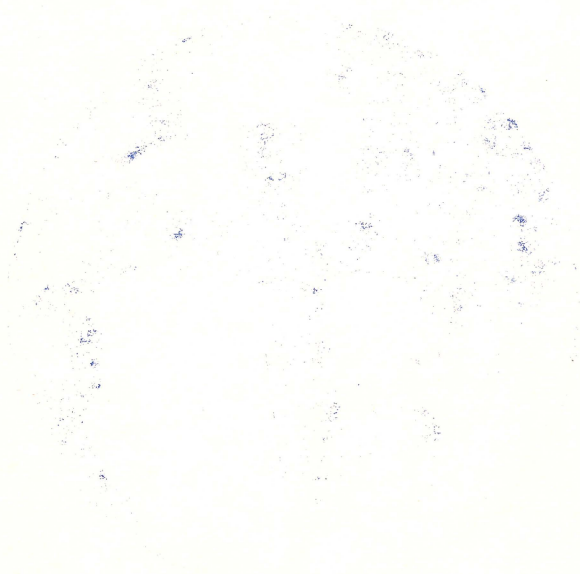
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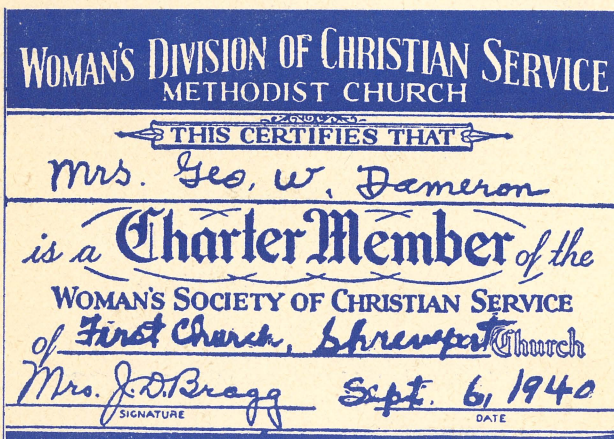
Dedication

*"Of the past — mindful,
To the present — faithful,
For the future — hopeful."*

It is said that only those who love an organization are interested in its history. So, to the thousands of women who love the Woman's Society of Christian Service and have contributed to its growth in Louisiana through these twenty-five years, we gratefully dedicate this historical record.

Mrs. Wiltz Ledbetter
Mrs. Elmer Stewart
Mrs. Haller Jackson
Mrs. George Sexton, Jr., Chairman
Conference Historical Committee

<i>Organization Dates</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>First President</i>
1879 The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Louisiana Conference, M. E. Church, South	Baton Rouge	Mrs. Mary K. Read
1891 Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Society	New Orleans	Mrs. F. A. Lyons
1911 Woman's Missionary Society (union of the foreign and home)	Monroe	Mrs. E. R. Kennedy
1940 Woman's Society of Christian Service	Alexandria	Mrs. George Sexton, Jr.



NOTE: Cover design from program of first Annual Meeting Woman's Society of Christian Service — 1941.

TOMORROW WEARS STARS

As your new president, my wish is that we rejoice in these days in which we live. Let us remove any barriers that might keep us from realizing our vast potentials. Let us "rejoice and be exceeding glad" over the marvelous possibilities and opportunities open to us. The first 25 years of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild are now history. They have been years of wondrous accomplishments. The next 25 years stretch out with golden possibilities, visions and dreams. All the resources for education and growth may be ours; all the upsurge of scientific discovery may be used for our advantage; all God's spiritual power is ours to use.

We are told by historians that we are living in one of the five great eras of history. Think of the human and material resources as yet untapped! Think of the great needs of the world as yet unmet! Think of the vast opportunities which are opening for women!

God has set no limits on what we may accomplish; it is we who limit Him.

The rich, rich beckoning tomorrows!

Mrs. Glenn E. Laskey,
President of the Woman's Division

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IN THE BEGINNING 1940 - 1941

Mrs. George Sexton, Jr., President

1939 is a great date in Methodism! In that year three great branches of the church in the United States — the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church — united to form *The Methodist Church*. At the same time, five women's societies were merged to form the Woman's Division of Christian Service, an integral section of the General Board of Missions. Sincere effort was made to incorporate into the new society the special values from each organization. Thus was brought into being the largest body of organized Christian women in the world.

Following the Uniting Conference, charter meetings were held in all conferences for the purpose of bringing together the local societies of the former churches. Thanks to Dr. Roy L. Smith, chairman of the Committee on Missions, the word *shall* was used in the plan adopted by the Uniting Conference, "There shall be a Woman's Society of Christian Service in every local church." By October 1940, 225 societies in Louisiana had turned in charter certificates with an enrollment of 9827 charter members. First to be organized was Water-proof on August 5th, with 34 members, and Mrs. C. L. Chennault, president. Amite followed closely on August 6th., with 51 members, and Mrs. S. M. Kilpatrick, president. The charter certificates have been collected and bound, and are kept with conference records.

The charter meeting for Louisiana Conference was called for October 23rd. and 24th. in Alexandria with Bishop Frank Smith presiding. It was a time of high inspiration.

The following officers were elected:

President	Mrs. George Sexton, Jr.
Vice-President	Mrs. J. J. McKeithen
Recording Secretary	Mrs. J. B. Pollard
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. J. H. Thatcher
Treasurer	Mrs. C. C. Carver

Secretaries of ..

Missionary Education and Service	Mrs. G. W. Dameron
Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities ..	Mrs. D. C. Metcalf
Wesleyan Service Guild	Mrs. Hugh Hoff
Student Work	Mrs. G. W. Pomeroy
Young Women and Girls' Work	Mrs. Glenn Laskey
Children's Work	Mrs. Ed Conger
Literature and Publications	Mrs. G. J. Tinsley
Supply Work	Mrs. C. I. Jones

Ours was a rich heritage from the former organizations. There was a developing social conscience, a clearly defined educational program, and a strong conviction that the spiritual must be paramount in all phases of the work. In the new society, therefore, Christian Social Relations, Missionary Education, and Spiritual Life Cultivation were defined as specific lines of work. Another special strength was the distribution of responsibility by means of wide-spread volunteer service. It is estimated that more than 200,000 women had served as officers on the various levels of the uniting societies. In addition, the Woman's Division could claim 1839 commissioned workers at home and abroad, 400 centers of work, and properties modestly estimated at 20 million dollars. In connection with this, we inherited a sound financial policy which has been carefully guarded these 25 years.

The first Annual Meeting of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, Louisiana Conference, was held at Noel Memorial Church, Shreveport, in the spring of 1941, with the theme "Christians United in a Broken World." At that meeting Mrs. John B. Pollard was elected president to succeed Mrs. Sexton who had become president of the South Central Jurisdiction.

WAR YEARS 1941 - 1946

Mrs. John B. Pollard, President

These were the war years in the history of our nation and in our Conference. Hardly had the new president taken over the reins of leadership than the news of Pearl Harbor burst on the world. This was followed immediately by the "declaration of war" by the president. Suddenly our entire way of living was changed. The words "rationing" and "priorities" were added to our vocabularies. Nearly every Methodist woman had a son, husband, or father involved. Of course this greatly affected the work of the church and progress and growth were halted. Membership was reduced as Methodist women answered the call to duty in the Red Cross, the U. S. O. and many other organizations created to help win the war. Family incomes were largely reduced, and this registered in the Conference pledge. Word came from the Woman's Division that appropriations must be cut which meant the work around the world would be drastically curtailed.

In 1943 the situation became so critical that the Woman's Division created an "Emergency Fund", asking each conference to raise an additional sum, based on 25 cents per member. Even this was difficult, but Louisiana met its obligation in full. There was anxiety over our missionaries. Many had to be recalled from enemy countries and a large number were held as prisoners. The climax came for the Conference in 1944 when we were unable to hold our Annual Meeting because of travel restrictions. Cultivation must go on, so special emphasis was given District meetings with a team of Conference officers and our two Division members attending each.

As the war approached its end, the Woman's Division, ever on the alert, asked each conference to hold a workshop to make plans for demobilization of the troops. Louisiana held a very successful workshop in New Orleans at St. Mark's where Negro and white leaders were brought together for consultation.

At the Executive Committee meeting in 1945, it was moved by Mrs. Dameron, seconded by Mrs. Pomeroy, that the Districts be fully organized in line with the constitution and by-laws of the Division. Carried. This was a great forward step.

The first National Assembly, bringing together for the first time Methodist women from the North and South, was held in Columbus, Ohio, in 1942, and Louisiana had its full share of representatives. The final year of my administration, 1946, was most rewarding, for the women of the church joined hands with all of Methodism in a great *Crusade for Christ*. It was a time of victory and triumph and we were soon on our way to full recovery.

ADVANCE 1946 - 1954

Mrs. Glenn Laskey, President

Try to recall the world of 1946! We were just emerging from the war. 250 Societies and 59 Wesleyan Service Guilds with a total membership of 10,477 pledged \$42,038. *The Crusade for Christ* came to an end, and the *Advance Program* was launched with high hopes. The Advance asked for

progress and increases all along the line, especially in finances where the needs were so great. In 1954, with 313 societies, 86 Guilds, and a membership of 14,738, the combined pledge was \$102,544. In 1949-50, the Louisiana Conference had the largest per capita giving in the South Central Jurisdiction.

My term of office was filled with many happy experiences, as well as some heartbreaks. How kind everyone was following the loss of my house by fire, and how grateful I am for rooms furnished in my honor at Scarritt College. Among the achievements during those years was Dulac Mission becoming an institution of the Woman's Division, the completion of the beautiful, modern Business Girls' Inn, the changing of the type of program at MacDonell, the Student Centers' expanding their work, and the developing, in cooperation with the Board of Education, of an unusual and outstanding program of rural work, with Elizabeth Thompson as director.

The Wesleyan Service Guild made the most marked advance with growth both in number of Guilds and membership. They held their first Guild Week-end in 1947 and in 1951 began Annual Meetings in connection with the Woman's Society.

Perhaps the greatest changes took place in missionary education. The tremendous growth and interest in the School of Missions was phenomenal. Beginning with one approved study course, offered in connection with Pastors School, we advanced to the four approved courses, with six or eight teachers, and all clinics and workshops according to the plan. Our numbers necessitated a separate school which was highly desirable. Seminars also underwent a change and were handled by the Districts instead of having teams itinerate the Conference. Literature was sold by hundreds of pieces to study-conscious women.

Emphasis during these years was placed upon the extreme urgency of the time, the great need for missionary personnel, the growth in social consciousness, necessity of larger giving, promotion of all plans and goals that would lead to increased membership and spiritual growth. We have not outgrown these objectives. The thrilling challenge to enlist women for the great purposes of our organization lies before us as in the past. Christ our Leader calls us to greater consecration, to deeper love, and to more earnest endeavor in the decades ahead.

DEEPER DEDICATION 1954 - 1958

Mrs. Charles Cadwallader, President
(formerly Mrs. C. I. Jones)

My years as president were filled with great joy as I sought to serve at home and abroad as an Ambassador of Christ. The Conference was excellently staffed, the institutions in good condition, and no great emergencies descended upon us. St. Mark's extended its services with the purchase of a camp site near Covington. This was later equipped with the help of the societies. In 1955, due to the growth of Methodism, the Conference realigned the districts, adding Lafayette, which gave a total of eight. Deaconess Shiela Nuttall returned to Louisiana and opened a new piece of rural work, that of a Larger Parish in St. Tammany Parish.

Special interest was shown throughout Louisiana in helping promote evangelism and spiritual growth. Mrs. Louise Eggleston led an Executive Prayer Retreat at Caney Lake in October 1957. The following February, Mrs. Eggleston conducted a Prayer School in Baton Rouge to which all pastors and laymen were invited by the Conference.

The inspiration of attending great church meetings, including the Fourth

Assembly in Milwaukee, Annual Meetings of the Division at Buck Hill Falls, the Brazil General Conference as well as our own General Conference in Minneapolis, and visiting more than a hundred missionary projects in countries around the world was shared to the best of my ability with the women of Louisiana. What a privilege to contact personally so many of our consecrated workers. To quote Bishop Arthur Moore "No trumpets sound their praise, they just live and labor to bring in the Kingdom of God — a noble, courageous, gallant band of men and women who believe passionately in the gospel of Christ." In each Annual Report of these years, 1954-1958, there are pictures of young women of Louisiana who volunteered for missionary service, largely a result of our continuing cultivation of youth.

In 1958 Societies numbered 335 with 94 Guild Units, total membership was 15,883, and the combined giving on pledge was \$113,975. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it," so it is gratifying to know that a great many of our women are living dedicated lives, giving their first interest, attention and devotion to the work of the church and the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

GOD CALLS YOUTH 1958 - 1962

Mrs. L. B. Kilpatrick, President

"Immortal Tidings in Mortal Hands" was the theme of the Annual Meeting of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service the year I was privileged to become president, and that theme in retrospect is significant for the work that was done during the four years of my tenure.

The tidings were told in many ways, but much emphasis was given to reaching youth. Annual Dinners for Young People were held in 1961 and 1962 with an attendance of 160 the first year and 170 the second year. These dinners proved to be rewarding experiences for the youths involved. Those in attendance were challenged with the need for workers in the church and the mission field. Twenty-four young girls were invited in 1961 for the first time to be a part of the Conference School of Missions. This was done again in 1962. Beginning in 1959 and each year thereafter, a Junior or Senior College girl was sent to the Christian Vocation weekend at National College in Kansas.

The district Woman's Societies gave financial support to those young people who could attend the Youth Section of the Jurisdiction Board of Missions, and the interest and concern of the women helped fill the Louisiana youth quota each year.

The Committee on Tours prepared and distributed information on Methodist tours in Louisiana. Later, two editions of a booklet "A Tour With a Purpose" were published. The service of the Tour Committee was broadened to include planning mission tours for youth on a Conference-wide basis.

To become more effective in telling the tidings, a Conference-wide training school for district officers and secretaries of lines of work was instituted.

In order to evaluate the work of the Woman's Society and the Wesleyan Service Guild, a Pilot Study for gathering data was made. One particularly challenging bit of information was found — that 43 percent of the Methodist Church membership was made up of women, of whom only 30 percent belonged to the Woman's Society or Guild. These percentages would probably hold throughout the Conference.

Projects in Louisiana under the Woman's Division were strengthened by the assignment of a church and community worker to the Alexandria District, and by Dulac Indian Center receiving Week of Prayer and Self Denial funds

so that new facilities were constructed in 1960. Under the new name of Dulac Community Center the work in that community was broadened.

These highlights of the work carried on during four years — 1958-1962 — reveal some tangible results of "Immortal Tidings in Mortal Hands."

A WORLD OF CHANGE 1962 —

Mrs. G. W. Dameron, President

During the 2½ years of my term as president, winds of change have blown across the Conference, and the members of the Woman's Society and Wesleyan Service Guild are being challenged with the truth that "new occasions teach new duties."

A new statement of Purpose for the Society and Guild emphasizes the need of deeper Christian commitment and growth in spiritual power through increased knowledge and experience of God.

The observance of the 25th Anniversary of the Woman's Society and Wesleyan Service Guild was launched in local churches in January 1964. Twenty-five percent increases in membership and giving on pledge to missions and recruitment of missionary personnel for home and overseas service, in both regular and special term relationships, are the Anniversary Goals which we have accepted for the 2½ years' anniversary observance. Only the future can tell the measure of our success.

There are new titles for lines of work, new terminology for certain aspects of our program, new definitions of officer responsibility — all these reflect the changes of the day. A closer working relationship between the Society and Guild and between the Society and the local Church are trends of our time.

Change not only "adds to" ; it also "takes away." The Conference Secretaries of Children's Work, Youth Work, and Missionary Service will retire from office May 31, 1965, because their lines of work, as we now know them, are being discontinued. Two faithful servants of the Church and the Woman's Division, Miss Fae Daves and Miss Wilhelmina Hooper, will retire in 1965. We rejoice that Mr. and Mrs. Carl Brunson will be commissioned a Home Missionary Couple (a new relationship under the Woman's Division) at the 1965 Annual Meeting; and that Misses Carole Cotton and Carol Wood, both senior students at Centenary College, will enter the U. S. 2 and special-term missionary relationships, respectively.

The election of a former conference president — Mrs. Glenn E. Laskey — as President of the Woman's Division has brought honor and a deep sense of responsibility to the Methodist women of Louisiana.

A month's itineration in this conference by Miss Maryruth Nickels, Regional Secretary for the Woman's Division, brought a new awareness of the need for better training and improved methods of communication between the conference, district, and local societies.

It was my privilege to be elected a delegate to the 1964 General and Jurisdictional Conferences — a privilege which gave new insights into the great Methodist Church.

In 1966, when my term of office comes to a close, the 25th Anniversary Observance, now in progress, will also officially end. Only then, will we know whether we have met the goals which are determined by statistics. In the meantime, it is my hope and prayer that the goal which points to a deeper knowledge and experience of God and to a greater depth of spiritual power may be realized. Should this goal be achieved, those measured by figures and statistics will follow as naturally as the day the night.

WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD

The Wesleyan Service Guild which had been an autonomus organization of employed women in the former Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated into the Woman's Society of Christian Service in 1940. Mrs. Hugh Hoff was the first Secretary for the Guild in Louisiana and served two years, followed by Mrs. W. R. Simmons, Miss Grace Lawson, Miss Mary Gladys Page, Mrs. Minza Rabun, Miss Sue Batton, and the present officer, Miss Arline Tyler. The Guild is an active part of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. It uses the same program materials, adapted to the needs and interests of employed women, and supports missionaries and missionary projects within the appropriations.

At the Annual Meeting in 1942, Mrs. Hoff reported that Louisiana ranked 4th in the Jurisdiction with Guild work. At that time there were only 38 organized units with 642 members who contributed \$335.16. In the last report, 1964, there were 105 units with 1917 members and their giving amounted to \$18,670. This indicates something of their remarkable growth. In June 1947 the first Conference-wide Guild Weekend was held at Camp Brewer. Last year the meeting was moved to more adequate accommodations on Centenary College campus. In 1951 the Guild began having its own Annual Meeting, using a weekend either before or following the Spring meeting of the W. S. C. S. Members have been enthusiastic over opportunities for study and spiritual growth and attend the Weekends, Workshops, Retreats, and Schools of Mission in large numbers.

A joint purpose undergirds the total missionary effort of Methodist women — "to help all women grow in the knowledge and experience of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and to challenge them to respond to God's redemptive purpose in the world."

GENERAL FACTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Five of Louisiana's six Conference presidents were members of the first Executive Committee elected in 1940. The other was busy with a new baby when the Charter meeting was held!

Throughout the twenty-five years, the Louisiana Conference W. S. C. S. has had a representative on the General Board of Missions, Mrs. Wiltz Ledbetter, Mrs. George Sexton, Jr., Mrs. George Damerson, and Mrs. Glenn Laskey serving as elected members. At present, we rejoice in furnishing the president of the Woman's Division, Mrs. Glenn Laskey, who is also a vice-president of the General Board.

We are fortunate to have in Louisiana practically every type of institution and service projected and supported by the Woman's Division — trained leaders with students at state-supported schools, rural work, and six institutional centers, well staffed and rendering exceptional service. (See brief histories.)

A real effort has been made through the years to make Louisiana self-supporting, that is, to send to the Division as much money as comes back in support of the work. This has been achieved though the "over and above" is not as large as we should like.

Since unification, eight young women from Louisiana have entered full time missionary service and ten have volunteered for special terms. Two of the ten decided later to be commissioned for full time service, making a total of ten regular missionaries.

Eighty-three different women have served as Conference officers in the 25 year period. A list of their names and office is on file with Conference records.

WOMAN'S DIVISION PROJECTS IN LOUISIANA

COMMUNITY CENTERS

People's Methodist Community Center
St. Mark's Community Center

EDUCATIONAL WORK AND RESIDENCES

Business Girls' Inn
Wesley Foundations
Louisiana Polytechnic Institute
Northwestern State College
University of Southwestern Louisiana
Sager-Brown School

SOCIAL WELFARE AND MEDICAL WORK

MacDonell Methodist Center

TOWN AND COUNTRY WORK

Dulac Community Center
Louisiana Town and Country Work

The Woman's Division projects in Louisiana represent all areas of work carried on by the Division. Behind each of the projects lies an interesting history, for the years have brought many changes. The summaries which follow are of necessity brief, and much of real interest has had to be omitted.

PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CENTER

2019 Simon Bolivar Ave., New Orleans

The People's Community Center was founded July 4, 1922 by Bishop Robert E. Jones, with Rev. James C. Calvin as superintendent. During its more than four decades of community service there have been only three other superintendents — Revs. D. W. Talbot Handy, Sr., George W. Carter, Jr., and the present one, Richard C. Calvin.

The purpose of the institution is to build Christian character and good citizenship among Negro people. To this end a full and varied program for children, youth and adults is offered.

The Board of Home Missions of the Methodist Church and the Woman's Society of Christian Service have supported the project financially. Since 1927 the United Fund of Greater New Orleans has given its support. The 1964 budget was \$44,000.

The day nursery has been a vital part of the Center's program. It is operated on a year round basis, caring for children of working mothers. Last year there were 75 children in the nursery department, 85 in kindergarten classes and 46 in the primary school. Mrs. Pearl C. Turnbull has served for many years as the nursery teacher.

Other vital services the Center has rendered to the immediate and surrounding community and the hundreds of lives it has touched and influenced for good, give cause for rejoicing. The immediate pressing need is for more space in which an enlarged program can be undertaken.

ST. MARK'S COMMUNITY CENTER

1130 North Rampart Street, New Orleans

The beginning of the project now known as St. Mark's Community Center was tied in with other missionary efforts and accomplishments of the Methodist women of New Orleans. Early in this century a Sunday School was opened in the "Irish Channel" by this group. One day while visiting the waterfront — a strange place for a lady to be — Miss Mary Werlein and Miss Susie Lyons heard Rev. Hartley Harrison preaching on a street corner. They waited to talk with him and out of this meeting the Mary Werlein Mission was born.

In 1908 the ladies enlisted the help of the Woman's Board of the Methodist Church, rented a building on Tchoupitoulas Street, and engaged Mrs. Meekins as missionary. She was a dedicated worker and soon came to be known as the "Angel of Tchoupitoulas." Support was supplemented by the Woman's Board of City Missions. The work grew and industrial classes were added. Social and religious activities were held in the basement of the First Methodist Church. This work focused the eyes of the church on the importance of New Orleans as a mission field. The city had grown rapidly and was by that time a large, cosmopolitan area whose inhabitants represented every nation of the earth and many of the isles of the sea. The opening of the Panama Canal and increased trade with South America and the West Indies called for hundreds of workers on the river front. These conditions were considered at a joint meeting of the Board of Missions and the Woman's Board of Home Missions.

The outcome was the launching of a larger work, financed by the two Boards co-operating with the Woman's Board of City Missions. In 1909, Miss Belle Bennett and Mrs. R. W. MacDonell came to New Orleans from Nashville and with the aid of the local women selected the site for the new mission. Two buildings at 619 Esplanade Avenue were rented and equipped for sewing and cooking classes, clubs, free baths, stereopticon lectures, free clinic, a playground, and many other features of a modern mission in a large city. The project was christened St. Mark's Hall by Miss Bennett and the City Mission Board transferred its industrial school from First Church to the new plant.

The Rev. N. E. Joyner, formerly a missionary to Mexico, was sent to London to study city missions and was then appointed Supt. of the New St. Mark's Hall, with Deaconess Margaret Ragland, Head Resident, and a nurse and housemother completing the staff. Children of every nationality gathered in the sewing and cooking classes, on the playgrounds and in the clinic. Gradually they came to Sunday School and brought their parents to morning service. Out of this project a "Church of Nations" emerged, later to be known as "St. Mark's Methodist Church."

In 1916 lots at the corner of North Rampart and Gov. Nicholls Streets were bought and, with the help of an appropriation from the Centenary Fund, the present building was erected to house both the Church and Community Center. It was occupied for the first time March 29, 1923 and dedicated by Bishop Hay Sept. 29, 1924. By 1925, the year the Center became a member agency of the Community Chest, the church had become a separate entity and for many years now has been completely self supporting. The Church and Center continue to work in close cooperation. Since unification the Community Center has been sponsored by the Woman's Division of Christian Service.

The program has been flexible, with services through the years adapted to special needs of the neighborhood. At present the section is typically "inner-city" with all of the inner-city problems and tensions. The program remains non-sectarian and the people served still come from many racial backgrounds.

Always the individual has been the focus, so whether the program stress was helping foreign born adjust to their new environment and become happy, productive citizens of their adopted country, or helping with a physical need, or helping young people grow through a program of varied activities, the purpose as expressed so aptly by one of the Junior leaders this past summer has always been "helping people help themselves," and encouraging them to be their best.

In July 1954 a new facility was added, a small but beautiful camp, located near Covington, La., which made possible a new dimension in the program — weekend camping during the year and summer resident camping. The 10th and largest camping season there was held in 1964. Since 1962 Camp St. Mark's has enjoyed full membership in the American Camping Association.

The reports of the last program year, the largest in the knowledge of the present staff, indicate that 650-700 individuals were served. What does the future hold? One fact stands out. Changes are taking place which must be honestly faced if St. Mark's Community Center continues the effective service of the past 55 years.

Fae L. Daves, Director

Materials for the origin of St. Mark's were taken from "A Brief History of St. Mark's Community Center" by Mrs. James W. Warren, Sept. 29, 1942.

THE BUSINESS GIRLS' INN

814 Cotton Street, Shreveport

The Business Girl's Inn was formally opened in September 1928, at 412 Fannin Street as a residence for young women, either employed or attending business school, and has been in operation continuously since that time. It is administered by the Methodist City Mission Board, whose members represent the 19 Woman's Societies in Shreveport and Bossier City. The purpose from its inception has been to provide a Christian environment for girls away from home.

While it is an institution of the Woman's Division, there is no discrimination on the basis of religious faith. In the 35 years of its existence more than 1,200 young women have found a home within its walls for varying periods of time. Residence in the Inn is limited to three years. Ages range from 17 to 25 years, with preference given the younger applicant. Operation is on a non-profit basis. Income includes fees from residents and an appropriation from the Woman's Division.

The building on Fannin Street, first leased and later purchased, accommodated only 25 residents. Because of an increasing demand for admittance, this property was sold in 1946. The \$25,000 realized from the sale formed the nucleus of a building fund for the new home on Cotton Street, ground for which was broken Feb. 26, 1948. This was the first cooperative home to be built after unification, and partly because of that fact it engaged the interest and generous support of the Woman's Division. \$50,000 of Crusade Funds through the Bureau of Social Welfare and \$25,000 from the building fund of the Department of Work in the Home Field, a total of \$75,000, was allocated to the building fund of the Business Girls' Inn. These funds, immediately available, were supplemented by contributions from interested friends and public spirited citizens of Shreveport to meet the steadily rising costs of construction. The edifice of classic beauty represents a total investment of approximately \$240,000,

including the 100x150 ft. lot, which was a gift from Mrs. A. J. Peavy and Dr. J. D. Woolworth. With its completion and freedom from indebtedness, a long cherished dream of Methodist women came to full fruition.

It is tempting to call the roster of the many women who dedicated their labor, their interest and their means to the attainment of this goal. We would be unfaithful to our heritage should we omit the names of Mrs. Abel Bliss, Mrs. George Sexton, Mrs. A. J. Peavy, and of Mrs. N. L. Hudson, who served for 22 years as the efficient treasurer of the City Mission Board.

THE WESLEY FOUNDATION

Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston

The Wesley Foundation at L. P. I. was organized in February 1936, under the leadership of Dr. Guy M. Hicks, who was at that time the minister at Trinity Methodist Church. In the beginning the Foundation employed student secretaries to guide the program and activities. Miss Hazel Lee Nowell, who served from 1936 until her graduation in 1939, was the first student secretary, followed by Miss Vivian Roberts, Marvin Corley, Miss Faye Barr, and Miss Thelma Hubbard. In 1942, when money was available for a well trained full time secretary, Miss Florence Jones, a graduate of Scarritt College, was employed. In 1946, Rev. Norman Preston served as associate minister of Trinity Methodist Church and director of the Wesley Foundation, followed by Mrs. J. T. Folk, Sr., and Miss Pearlye Maye Kelley who initiated a varied and constructive program. Rev. William M. Stokes, Jr., became the director in 1957.

At first the Wesley Foundation shared facilities with the Baptist Student Union but in 1948 the Board of Trustees and Board of Directors purchased a brick house on College Street. This was soon outgrown by the Methodist students and finally on September 30, 1954, after several years of planning for more adequate facilities, ground was broken for a new student center at the north end of College Street. The new building with 3,534 square feet of floor space was built at a cost of \$56,000. Bishop Paul E. Martin officiated at the dedication of the building on Sunday, September 30, 1956. The building, spacious and completely air conditioned, is valued at \$87,500.

Although the building is most impressive on the outside, with a large cross above the entrance to the Chapel, the truly striking qualities are found within the building. Here those who carry on the program and activities make an effective witness for Christ on the college campus. Everything is planned by the students to meet the needs of students. Here is training in churchmanship, for these are the future leaders of our church. The students' program and activities include Thursday and Sunday vespers, prayer time, Bible study groups, choir practice, council meetings and deputation teams to the churches of the District as well as many other special projects.

Graduates of Louisiana Tech are now serving in various church related vocations — 19 ministers in the Louisiana Annual Conference, 4 ministers in other Methodist Conferences, a minister in the mission field, another in preparation at seminary, 2 directors of Christian education and 12 ministers' wives, and countless others who are lay leaders in their own local churches.

The Wesley Foundation benediction at Louisiana Tech expresses the devotion, consecration, and service of the students in these words: "All that I am, and all that I have, I give to Christ and his service. Amen."

William M. Stokes, Jr., Campus Minister

THE WESLEY FOUNDATION

Northwestern State College, Natchitoches

In the years before 1956, the Methodist program for college students at Northwestern State College was housed in a building owned, maintained, and operated by the State of Louisiana for the use of religious organizations on the campus. The largest groups were the Baptist Student Union and the Wesley Foundation and each had one large room as its own. All groups shared the chapel, kitchen, and recreational facilities.

Because of college growth and the immediate need for more classroom and office space, the college administration asked the religious organizations to move off the campus property into their own buildings. The Catholics were first to move, followed by the Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians. Within six months after the request to move, all groups were relocated in their own church-owned quarters. In 1956, property directly across the street from the college gate was purchased by the Methodist Church to serve as the Wesley Foundation quarters.

The property included a house which was used for two years before a chapel was added. These quarters were soon outgrown and an expansion program was undertaken. An adjoining lot was bought in 1960 and the following spring a lot 75 x 150 feet on Boyd street was obtained. The old building was moved to this site and a new building erected on the College Avenue property. This was completed and furnished in 1963-64 at a cost of \$97,000. The present indebtedness is \$51,000.

Our Methodist student enrollment in the past few years has grown from 450 in 1959 to 730 in 1964. Student activities and participation have increased proportionately during this period. Our activities include worship, fellowship, recreation, study and pastoral care.

Bob Tatum, Campus Minister

THE WESLEY FOUNDATION

University of Southwestern Louisiana

For many years a Methodist student organization existed at Southwestern Louisiana Institute, supported by the First Methodist Church of Lafayette. The organization met in various places, including First Methodist Church, a room provided by the college, and rented residences.

From 1942 through 1950, leadership was provided by the Woman's Division through services of various deaconesses, including Verna Webster, Betty Glasson, Helen Strickland, and Pearlye Maye Kelley. Under Miss Kelley's leadership the present Methodist Student Center was constructed and was occupied in 1949. The construction of this fine two-story brick air-conditioned building was a great step forward in the work with Methodist students at S. L. I.

Since 1950, ministers have been appointed to direct the Wesley Foundation. However, the Woman's Division has continued financial support to this work.

In 1960, Southwestern Louisiana Institute became the University of Southwestern Louisiana. This change of status indicates the growth in all phases of the University, including the Wesley Foundation. Throughout the years the

Wesley Foundation has attempted to minister to the spiritual needs of our Methodist students through retreats, study groups and regular Thursday night forum-type programs. Since the construction of the new building in 1949, with its chapel on the second floor, worship services have been a more vital part of this ministry.

In the past few years as our student enrollment has increased, various new types of activities have been included. Among these are the Wesley Players, our dramatic group, and the Wesley Singers, our musical group. In keeping with the trend throughout Methodism of emphasizing small group activities, the USL Wesley Foundation tries to have each of its students belong to a small fellowship group. It is hoped that in these small groups significant spiritual growth will be experienced by each member.

Robert S. Barefield, Campus Minister

SAGER - BROWN SCHOOL

Baldwin

Records show that there has been a home and school for Negro children at Baldwin since 1867. The name of the first school was Gilbert Academy and Industrial College. In 1899 an orphan's home was started on the campus in connection with Gilbert Academy.

In 1921 The Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church took over the orphanage. Because of generous financial donations the name Sager-Brown Home and Godman School was chosen. At this time Sager-Brown Home was operated by the Bureau of Children's Homes of the Woman's Home Missionary Society.

Due to the fact that the home grew out of a school, the School continued to be operated. In 1933 the Home was placed with educational institutions, and in 1940, continued operation under the Woman's Division of Christian Service.

In June 1963 the name Sager-Brown School was chosen. This did not change the type of work. The home takes care of children who are orphans, children from broken homes, children whose parents cannot take care of them properly because of job obligations and other reasons, and children who are placed in the home through welfare agencies and courts. The dormitories can accommodate approximately sixty children.

The school serves children who live in the dormitories plus pupils who attend school from the surrounding communities. The total enrollment ranges from 150 to 160 pupils, with a staff of 16 persons. Classes are taught from kindergarten through the eighth grade.

The physical plant consists of a dormitory for boys and a dormitory for girls, a staff cottage, school building, a library building, a commercial laundry, a barber shop, and a beauty parlor. There is also a small farm of approximately thirty-five acres. The school cares for children on a year round basis.

Sager-Brown is a project of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, and is the only institution of this type.

Rosie Ann Cobb, Superintendent

MAC DONELL METHODIST CENTER

Houma

MacDonell Methodist Center has played an active part in the growth of Methodism in southern Louisiana. In the early 1900s Miss Ella K. Hooper, whose eyes had failed as she studied for mission work in China, came to south Louisiana as a public school teacher. She found children anxious to learn and parents anxious to have them learn. The children especially loved stories and each day a number were included in the day's work. Before long the children were asking for stories every day of the week, and Miss Ella agreed if the parents would agree for Sunday's stories to be from the Bible. Thus, a Sunday Bible story group was started. The groups grew. Miss Ella's teaching was obviously much needed, so she stayed in southern Louisiana.

In 1917 the Woman's Missionary Council of the M. E. Church South assigned Miss Ella and Mrs. Laura White to establish a definite program in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. They carried on their work from a little rented house in Houma. In 1919 Miss Hooper was commissioned a deaconess of the Methodist Church and in that year \$10,000 in Centenary funds were made available for the purchase of a beautiful mansion and grounds in the heart of Houma. The mansion became a "Wesley House" and was opened to serve the people of the two parishes.

In 1908 a minister had been assigned to the new Methodist congregation in Bayou Blue and from that time on Methodism had grown steadily in the area. The need for trained leadership in the new churches was apparent and the Missionary Council authorized the MacDonell French Mission School. In 1922 Week of Prayer and Self Denial Funds were available and a school building was erected as well as a building housing kitchen, dining room and laundry. Boys were housed on the second floor over the school and girls in Wesley House. In 1923 the school was opened offering a full curriculum for building leadership. The students often formed part of evangelistic teams helping churches and church schools in the area.

Week of Prayer and Self Denial Funds in 1932 built Keener Hall, the present girls' dormitory, and Downs Hall, a new central dining room and kitchen. Hope Cottage was moved to the campus, and Downs Hall was rebuilt after it burned in 1946. The campus began to take on its present appearance, but changes continued to be made in program.

Gradually public schools became available to all of the French Acadian children, and MacDonell served from 1948 to 1953 as an Indian School, offering classes for both children and adults. By 1953 Indian children were also included in the pattern of public schools and the MacDonell Methodist Center became a children's home. The purpose now is to provide care, Christian nurture, study and treatment for neglected, dependent — or orphan — children in need of care outside their own homes. The program prepares children and their families to be reunited, or, where this is not possible, prepares the children for living in a family setting. Better methods of treatment are continually being devised, and it is important for MacDonell staff members to keep abreast of the changing theories in institutional child-care. The current trend in the program is toward more professional service to children whose specific problems demand understanding and treatment rather than simple custodial care. The continuing purpose of the agency is to insure that all children admitted receive the best possible care in a Christian environment.

Mrs. John L. Howe, Jr.

DULAC COMMUNITY CENTER

Dulac Community Center is the second Home Missions Project in Louisiana to grow out of the concern of Miss Ella Hooper for the needs of people. In 1932 Miss Hooper found an opportunity to help the Indians living near Dulac by starting a day school for them. Mrs. George DeForest volunteered as the first teacher, and was joined by Miss Wilhelmina Hooper, Miss Ella's sister. Miss Ella undertook the task of supplying financial backing for the project.

This school was the first educational venture to succeed with the Indians in this area. Indians were not allowed to attend white schools and attempts to enroll them in Negro schools or in schools of their own did not succeed. It was a dozen years before public school facilities became available to Indians. Miss Ella was able to secure financial support for the school, principally through the Clanton family of Shreveport. She continued to work as director of MacDonell French Mission School in Houma, but gave much of her free time to the direction of the work at Dulac. Miss Wilhelmina Hooper continued to live and teach at Dulac, although Mrs. DeForest left at the end of the first year. Miss Ella was able to make a purchase of land at Dulac, part of which is now the site of Dulac Center.

In 1936, a white frame church was constructed, and dedicated by Bishop Dobbs as Clanton Chapel. The membership has grown until now it is approximately 150. A lovely new sanctuary, adjacent to the Center, was completed in 1963.

Official support for Dulac came in 1950 when the Woman's Division assumed financial responsibility for the work. Miss Ella had traveled over the state raising funds, and now, just prior to retirement, she was able to shift the responsibility to official channels.

The Advisory Board began to take a hard look at the needs of the community. A public school for Indians was now available, so a decision was made to shift the program from a school to a Community Center. The public school had enlarged its facilities, so in 1954 the school was closed.

A program of kindergarten, recreation, informal education, and interest groups was developed. The Indians began to respond to this with more pride in themselves and with a thirst for knowledge and experience.

The Center again outgrew its facilities, so in 1959 funds from the Week of Prayer offering made possible the construction of a new Center. The new building consists of a gymnasium-auditorium, a lounge, library, club room, offices, kitchen and three large kindergarten rooms—large enough for 60 five-year olds. This new building had really become the community Center—then came hurricane Hilda which left us with five feet of water in the Center and Church, and insufficient funds to repair or rebuild. As never before, both your prayers and money are needed.

Carl Brunson, Former Director

LOUISIANA TOWN AND COUNTRY WORK

Louisiana is largely rural territory, so for a great many years we have had a deaconess specially trained in rural work, to strengthen the program of the church. The services of a Town and Country worker are varied and require a knowledge of all phases of the church program.

In the summer of 1926 Miss Ora Hooper was stationed in Hammond to do experimental work. Then after a year at Scarritt College, she was commissioned a deaconess, and appointed to the Baton Rouge District. Later she worked in Lake Charles and Alexandria Districts.

Another valuable worker was Miss Shiela Nuttall, who gave 12 years, 1933-1945, to the Lake Charles District, and was later in the Monroe and Ruston Districts, before transferring to the Board of Education of the Louisiana Conference to serve as director of children's work.

There was no set pattern for rural work, but the deaconess cooperated with the pastor in many ways, teaching leadership classes, leading family night programs, directing Christmas pageants, etc.

Miss Elizabeth Thompson came to Louisiana in 1952 and gave outstanding service with leadership training, especially in the French section of the state.

The present church and community worker is Mrs. Martha Overbey, who began work in the Simmsport-Evergreen area of Alexandria District in July 1961. She strengthened and supplemented the program with adults, youth and children in the two churches and throughout the community. In June 1962, Mrs. Overbey was moved to the Urania area in the same district. Here she works with six churches, in as many communities, doing much visiting in the homes of both Methodist and other denominations. For the past five years Mrs. Overbey has conducted a school for Texas-Mexican migrants in the strawberry area of the State.

DIRECTORY

MISSIONARIES

- MISS PATSY ALEXANDER, Sterlington. Served in Cuba and Uruguay. Present address: Benton, La.
- MISS ELMA ASHBY, Fluker. Nurse — in Southern Rhodesia since 1949. Address: Nyadiri, P.O. Box 636, East Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, Africa.
- MRS. GRETCHEN ELSTON BENNER, Shreveport. Went to Japan as a J-3 in 1951. Returned home at end of term for further study, then returned to Japan for full time service. Married to Patterson Benner. Presently at home on furlough.
- MISS MARGARET WADE CAMPBELL, Alexandria. In Mexico since 1954. Presently at Chihuahua City, Mexico.
- MISS CLARA CHALMERS, New Orleans. Served in Cuba and Mexico. Retired. Address: 413 Hillary St., New Orleans, La.
- DR. VELA CLEVELAND, New Orleans. Went to India in 1958 as pediatrician at Ellen J. Cowan Hospital, Mysore State, India.
- MISS ANNA GIVENS, Lafayette. Served from 1955 to 1959 in Japan. For health reasons, returned to U. S. and worked for a time at the Woman's Division, New York. Now married to Mr. Lee Snyder.
- MISS ALEXA MCCAIN, Shreveport. In 1949 went to Isabella Thoburn University, India, to teach. After a brief stay retired due to ill health.
- MISS PATRICIA MCHUGH, New Orleans. Served in Korea, then in the Philippines, where she was interned at the beginning of World War II. After release, was retired. Address: 1409 Pine Street, New Orleans.
- MISS AVA MORTON, Cotton Valley. Went to China in 1931. Was ordered out by the State Dept. in 1940. Married Rev. J. A. Alford, 1942. Address: Rt. 1 Minden, La.
- MISS JULIA REID, Lake Charles. Served 1927 to 1941 in Cuba, later with Spanish-speaking people in the Rio Grande Valley. Now Mrs. W. W. Paxton, Lake Charles, La.

DEACONESSES

- MISS EMMA BURRIS, Franklinton. Commissioned 1929. Served in various Settlement Houses until 1950, when she went to work for the Woman's Division. Address: 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y.
- MISS ROSIE ANN COBB, New Orleans. Has served in several capacities, now director, Sager-Brown School. Address: Baldwin, Louisiana.
- MISS MARY DANIEL, St. Francisville. Served with the Department of Immigration at the Port of San Francisco. Now retired.
- MISS NORMA GARLINGTON, Pitkin. Education Director at St. Paul's Methodist Church, Monroe, Louisiana.

MISS ELLA HOOPER, Rosedale. Served from 1917 to 1950 at Houma Wesley House and MacDonell Community Center. Retired in 1950. Address: Rosedale, Louisiana.

MISS ORA HOOPER, Rosedale. Commissioned 1927. Served in Rural Work. For the past ten years has been at Vashti School, Thomasville, Ga.

MISS SOPHIE KUNTZ, New Orleans. Worked in various Community Centers. Retired. Address: 410 Fern Street, New Orleans.

MISS HELEN MANDLEBAUM, New Orleans. Served in several Community Centers. Now at Wesley Community House, Louisville, Kentucky.

MISS SHIELA NUTTALL, Shreveport. In Rural Work from 1932 to 1959. Now with the Board of Education of Louisiana Conference. Address: 2925 Midway Street, Shreveport, Louisiana.

MISS CAROLINE PORTER, Many. Served in many places, the last of which was Homer Toberman Home, San Pedro, California. Now retired. Address: 10767 Montair, Tujunga, California.

MISS WILLIE MAY PORTER, Monroe. Served several places, the last of which was the First Methodist Church, LaGrange, Illinois. Retired in 1958. Died in Jackson, Miss. in 1961.

MISS ARLINE TYLER, Shreveport. Served eight years in Rural York. Now teaching in Shreveport and serving as Conference Secretary, W. S. G. Address: 702 E. Washington St. Shreveport, La.

MRS. VERA WEBSTER WILLIS, Pelican. Entered the work of Woman's Division in 1933. Now married to Mr. Mike Willis, who is also a commissioned worker. Both are serving at Wesley House, Houston, Texas.

TWO AND THREE YEAR VOLUNTEERS

MISS CAROLINE BAGWELL, Bryceland. US-2 1951-52.

MISS MARTHA CALDWELL, West Monroe. US-2 1955-57. Taught in East Tennessee.

MISS POLLY GEMAR, Baton Rouge. Served at Wesley Community Center, Houston, Texas 1953-55.

MISS CHARLIE HAMPTON, Shreveport. Served three year term in Japan, 1952-55. Now librarian in Honolulu. Address: 2629 Haili Road.

MISS GERALDINE HUNT, Haynesville. Served in Holston Conference, Tennessee. 1958-61.

MISS STELLA LOWE, Minden. Served at Lessie Bates Davis House, East St. Louis, Illinois 1955-57. Now married to Paul Matherne.

MISS CARRIE LENA MYRICK, Jamestown. Served in Bethlehem Center, Memphis. 1958-1960.

MISS MARZETTE STEPHENS, Palmetto. Worked in District 1949-1951.

